

## **Bush River Community Council**

### **December 17, 2012 Meeting Minutes**

The December 2012 meeting of the Bush River Community Council (BRCC) was called to order by the Chairman, Larry Carmichael, at 6:35 p.m. in the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center large meeting room, Otter Point Road, Abingdon, MD, on December 17, 2012. In attendance were Harford County Delegate Glen Glass and Harford County Council representative Andrew Tress, Harford County Executive Representative Aaron Tomarchio and Patti Gonzalez, Sheriff Office representatives Capt Chris Swain and Cindy Pierce, and board member: Chairman Larry Carmichael, Recording Secretary Mary Starks, Mike Carr, Glenn Dudderar, Kathleen Leary, and Jo Wanda Lucas. Vice Chairman Randy Conlon was absent from the meeting. Chris Henn and the Bowsers attended from the community.

Chairman Carmichael welcomed everyone and thanked all for coming. The final Minutes from the November meeting were staffed then approved, as agreed upon by the Board, electronically. He then asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the mass shooting in Connecticut.

The chairman introduced and welcomed the newest member of the BRCC board: Mike Carr. He then announced he would be resigning from the board in February 2012 after fulfilling his two year appointment by the County Executive. Mrs. Gonzalez said that anyone interested in assuming the chairman position should submit his or her name to her as a nomination. The County Executive would then appoint the chairman.

The new owners of Perrywood Gardens, Tryko representative Mike Gold has invited the BRCC to attend a follow-up walk through of the apartment complex to observe improvements. The walk through is scheduled for 18 Dec 2012. Chairman Carmichael made the distinction that this walk through is for the community issues (bat infestation, water runoff) and not for tenant issues.

### **Harford County Sheriff's Report**

Captain Swain reminded everyone to access the CrimeReports.com to see crimes reported for our area. He reminded everyone to keep cars, home doors and windows locked as these are easy targets for burglars. He reported that Sheriff Banes has a committee of 20 stakeholders to address traffic safety in the county and one of many ideas is cameras on school buses to catch cars passing buses illegally. Legally the only speed cameras permitted in Maryland are school zones and road construction zones. There are currently no plans to expand that law or to pursue speed cameras at this time.

A question was raised about the level of oversight for inhabitants of halfway houses on Long Bar Harbor. Some of the neighbors have expressed concerns over the safety of the neighborhood. Capt Swain said he would look into that and report back. The issue of traffic congestion and speed on Grays Run Circle in Riverside was raised again from complaints of neighbors. The county did a test and found that no one was speeding at that time so no action was taken. Traffic congestion is made worse because parking is permitting on both sides of the street. Captain Swain said to call the precinct if abandoned cars are a problem and they would come out and tag and tow them.

Ms Cindy Pierce, Harford County Safe Streets Coordinator, described the new Harford County Safe Streets Initiative. It involves incidents of violent crime in Harford County including the local municipalities. It is a partnership of Town police, State Police and County Sheriff Deputies to share information, conduct foot and mobile patrols, gather intelligence, conduct warrant sweeps and obtain/use release information about inmates from Department of Corrections and the Harford County

Detention Center. The goal is to move the most violent offenders from Harford County streets through cooperation and teamwork among county town and state law enforcement. Contacts for further information or to report suspected violent crimes and gang activity are:

Sgt Mark Fox, 410-612-1673, foxm@harfordsheriff.org

Cpl Eric Gonzalez, 410-612-1672 gonzaleze@harfordsheriff.org

Cindy Pierce, 443-409-3290 piercec@harfordsheriff.org

**Agenda:** Aaron Tomarchio, Chief of Staff, presented the Harford County Executive's agenda for the next two years.

**Education:** We have 7 renovated or newly built schools in the past 7 years. Still to be accomplished: Youths Benefit Elementary, Havre de Grace High School, William Paca/Old Post Road Elementary, and Joppatowne High School modernization. The first three are multi building facilities and the goal is to rebuild a single building for each for safety as well as security. Improvement of athletic fields in Aberdeen High School 2013, Joppatowne High School 2014, Fallston High School 2015, and Patterson Mill High School 2016. Harford Community College West Campus project in partnership with Towson University and the Nursing and Allied Health Service Building construction were on the agenda. The latter is being studied to determine whether to locate this facility in proximity to Upper Chesapeake Hospital.

**Water and Sewer Authority:** A Memorandum of Understanding among Harford County, Aberdeen, Bel Air, Havre de Grace, APG, and a water company to develop a comprehensive plan for future water and sewer service to the county. Municipal leaders and County officials formed a workgroup and met in November 2012 with a consultant to prepare a proposal and cost estimate to develop a preliminary plant to transition county water and sewer programs to a Water Authority.

**Public Works Transportation:** BRAC intersection improvements to continue as they are funded -. Included are intersection improvements to Route 22 and Paradise Road, Route 22 and Beards Hill Road and Route 22 and Old Post Road. Transit service from MARC train stations to APG.

**Public Safety:** Create, by Executive Order, a Department of Public Safety to include the current Division of Emergency Operations and select/appoint a Director. Present legislation for codification of a Public Safety Commission. Construct a new building to house the Emergency Operations Center.

**Land Use:** Manage the state mandates in SB236 Septic Bill, (December 2012), and submit to MDP a Tier Designation Map as require by state law. Amend subdivision regulations to include definition of major subdivision for the bill. This will show existing sewer service, planned sewer service, development envelop, rural areas, preservation areas, rural legacy areas, protected lands and agricultural forest. Establish 2 year milestone plan for 2013-2015 under the Watershed Implementation Program (WIP) 2011-2013. Complete the milestones as submitted to the state: State-mandated storm water Utility Fee; upgrades to treatment plants; stream and forest restoration projects and Stream Challenge Grant Application; Deer Creek WIP implementation; Existing septic systems in the development envelope connections to public sewer system. Development regulations: Review and update zoning and design standards to ensure quality of life issues are addressed and Transfer of Development Rights legislation

**Assistance to Community Agencies:** Southern Resource Center (design in final stages) which will provide a one stop shop for Housing Health Department and Community Action Agency off of Route 40 near Route 152 with funding for Southern Precinct. SARC – assist in supporting a new location for

a safe house. Harford Center – establish a second location to support growing enrollment and demand for services needed by adults with disabilities. Humane Society – Partnership to construct a new animal shelter to replace the 50-year-old facility at the current location. \$6.4 Million is funded through bonds and budget.

Several internal county administration priorities are planned as well such as upgrading computer systems, data management system, time and attendance system and completion of a broadband system for the county government with a planned 100 sites operational by 2014. Also, personnel system changes for wages and pensions for county employees including teachers.

A copy of the presentation can be found at:

<http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/Executive/TwoYearProgram.pdf>

**Government representative:**

Mr Glenn Glass, MD Delegate from Harford County, is working several bills including one that would require a new delegation leader every 2 years. He is opposed to any consideration of a gas tax.

New Business – The January meeting (third Monday of the month) falls on a Federal Holiday and, therefore, the Chairman will arrange to meet on another date to be announced. The speaker for January will be a representative from BG&E to discuss Smart Meters. The speaker for March will provide an update on the planned Harford County Performing Arts Center.

With no further topics, questions or issues raised, Chairman Carmichael thanked all attendees for coming, and adjourned the meeting at 7: 35 pm.

Submitted by:

Mary Starks

Secretary, Bush River Community Council